GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1525
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
DONATION OF EYE
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that donation of eyes to the eye banks is over-whelming during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government are making any special efforts to enthuse and encourage more and more people to donate their eyes so that blind persons can also get an opportunity to see; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. The approximate requirement of the cornea annually is about one lakh whereas we the eye banks collected only 15, 194 corneas in 1998, 12,174 corneas in 1999 and 19, 069 corneas in 2000 which is far below than the expected collection. The State-wise details of eye collection of the above three years is enclosed as Annexure.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. To promote eye donation in the country, the following measures are being taken:-

i. Organising National Fortnight on Eye Donation from 25th August to 7th September every year.

ii. Enhance mass awareness through messages on television, radio, press and printed material.

iii. Training hospital staff on GRIEF COUNSELLING for motivating relatives of terminally ill patients for donating the eyes.

iv. Provide financial assistance to eye banks in Government and voluntary sector.

v. Organise training of eye surgeons in the corneal transplantation to restore vision of corneal blind persons.

vi. Launching hospital cornea retrieval programme with the support of major hospitals, medical colleges in Government and Non-Government sector, Army, ESI & Railway hospitals of the country.

vii. To shift the focus from `Pledging of Eyes` to actual collection of Eyes.

ANNEXURE

STATEWISE STATISTICS OF CORNEA COLLECTION BY THE MEMBER EYE BANKS OF EBAI

Sl. No.	STATE	Eyes collected in 1998	Eyes collected in 1999	Eyes collected in 2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1040	917	1306
2.	Assam	Not reported	Not reported	0
3.	Bihar	28	68	17
4.	Chandigarh	200	225	246
5.	Delhi	846	997	973
6.	Gujarat	5133	588	6078
7	Haryana	10	Not reported	168
8.	Karnataka	723	776	842
9.	Kerala	238	206	264
10.	Maharashtra	2700	1477	4189
11.	Madhya Pradesh	310	456	408
12.	Orissa	Not reported	Not reported	0
13.	Punjab	752	100	199
14.	Rajasthan	47	143	218
15.	Tamil Nadu	2534	1201	3359
16.	Uttar Pradesh	319	224	214
17.	West Bengal	214	296	531
18.	Pondicherry			67
Total		15,194	12,174	19,069